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Erling S. Jorgensen to make a projection of education needs in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota

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Dr. Erling S. Jorgensen, director of the Montana Educational Television Project, has been asked by the National Association of Educational Broadcasters to make a projection of educational needs in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota covering the next 10 to 20 years.

Dr. Jorgensen will survey these states in terms of predicted school enrollments, costs, teacher supply and other factors that will figure in educational needs that might be met in part by educational television in the next decade or two.

The association is gathering data at the request of the Federal Communications Commission, which must determine how many channels to reserve for future needs of educational television. The FCC has specifically asked the association for concrete proposals regarding how many channels will be needed if and when all channels are moved from very high frequency to ultra high frequency.

The 12 VHF channels now reserved will not be enough for either educational or commercial television, Dr. Jorgensen said. UHF is not much used now because comparatively few UHF receivers exist, he explained. However, he pointed out, the FCC could rule that, after a specified date, all TV sets and stations will have to be equipped to handle both VHF and UHF, with a view to eventual complete conversion to UHF.

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